

Remarks

The following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action mailed March 1, 2007. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period. Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, claim 1 is amended to recite "the one or more additional portions" instead of "the second portion of the closure." Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 22, 25-28, and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,411,699 to Pine et al. Additionally, claims 1, 2, 10, 22, 25-28, 32-37, 39, and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,612,484 to Rawlings et al. In response, independent claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 are amended to emphasize a distinction from the Pine et al. and Rawlings et al. references. Specifically, claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 are amended to recite that the flap foldably overhangs the enclosure of the claimed reusable envelopes.

With respect to claims 1 and 22 and the Pine et al. anticipation rejection, the Examiner reads panel 12' of the envelope shown in Figures 11-14 as the claimed closure. As amended, claims 1 and 22 recite a closure flap foldably overhanging the enclosure and are accordingly distinct from the envelope of the Pine et al. reference for at least such recitation. No such foldably overhanging closure flap is disclosed in the Pine et al. reference. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 and the Rawlings et al. anticipation rejection, claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 are believed distinct from the Rawlings et al. reference as currently amended to recite that the flap foldably overhangs the enclosure of the envelope. The envelope of Rawlings et al. includes inner flap 20 and outer flap 22 adjacent to pocket 30. On a first use outer flap 22 is sealed to band 16b of face sheet 12 to close the envelope. Sealed band 16b and outer flap 22 are removed to open the

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envelope the first time. The envelope is then resealed by folding inner flap 20 over the pocket 30. In contrast, claims 1, 22, 32, and 39 each recite a flap foldably overhanging the enclosure of the envelope and that includes a first portion for closing the envelope a first time and a second portion for closing the envelope for reuse. The Rawlings et al. reference does not disclose a flap that foldably overhangs the enclosure as presently claimed. Accordingly, the Rawlings et al. reference cannot anticipate claim 1, 22, 32, and 39 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

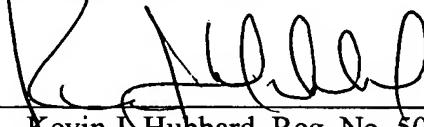
In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

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Respectfully Submitted,

By:



Kevin J. Hubbard, Reg. No. 50,717
Customer Number 33072
Phone: 651-275-9813
Fax: 651-351-2954